



**For immediate release
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DCR'S TRAVELING MAPLE SUGARING EXHIBIT READY FOR SCHOOL VISITS

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has constructed a traveling maple sugaring exhibit geared for school visits to teach students the history of maple sugaring in New England and involve them in the process of making maple sugar from the sap of sugar maple trees.

The exhibit, a small trailer made entirely of recycled materials at a cost of about \$500, includes an evaporator, in which the sap is boiled to create syrup. In addition to the history of maple sugaring, children will also learn how to identify a sugar maple in winter when it has no leaves, how to tap a tree, and how to split wood to fuel the evaporator. They will also be able to taste fresh maple syrup. The demonstrations are free.

"This exhibit is going to be a lot of fun for a lot of kids who will learn a great deal about our cultural and economic history and get to try their own hand at making this delicious regional treat," said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr. "I encourage educators across the Commonwealth to call us and set up an appointment for the trailer to visit their school."

The sugaring trailer will begin visiting schools next week and continue for the remainder of March. DCR employees will park the trailer in a school parking lot or field, and lead groups of up to 100 students at a time through the various steps of the maple sugaring process. Each demonstration lasts about 45 minutes. Next year, the agency plans to conduct the demonstrations during the entire month of March.

For more information on the traveling exhibit, and to make a reservation, call 781-438-1388.

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The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, and dams, in addition to 278 bridges and miles of roadways. Led by Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr., the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit www.mass.gov/dcr. Contact us at mass.parks@state.ma.us.

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